

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01059 261337Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

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R 261032Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1859

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PO, FR

SUBJ: MENDES-FRANCE VISITS PORTUGAL

1. FORMER FRENCH PRIME MINISTER PIERRE MENDES-FRANCE HAS ARRIVED IN LISBON "TO ANALYZE ENCOMONIC QUESTIONS." HERE FOR TWO WEEKS AT THE INVITATION OF FINANCE MINISTER SILVA LOPES, MENDES-FRANCE IS SCHEDULED DURING THAT PERIOD TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MELO ANTUNES (WHO SUPERVISED THE FORMULATION OF JUST ISSUED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAM), ECONOMISTS REPRESENTING THE PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, MINISTERS SOARES (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), COSTA MARTINS (LABOR), AND CUNHAL (WITHOUT PORTFOLIO), AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERSINDICAL AND THE CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE INDUSTRY.

2. SILVA LOPES WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT MENDES-FRANCE WOULD, INTER ALIA, CONCERN HIMSELF WITH AN INCOME POLICY AND INVESTMENTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. MENDES-FRANCE LIMITED HIS AIRPORT REMARKS TO AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE FOR THE INVITATION.

3. COMMENT: SILVA LOPES' INVITATION TO MENDES-FRANCE IS CONSISTENT WITH INVITATIONS TO OTHER FOREIGN EXPERTS THAT HE HAS EXTENDED SINCE JOINING THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT (E.G., SWEDISH ECONOMIST LUNDBERG (LISBON 21 AND 245) AND TEAM OF MIT ECONOMISTS WHICH CAME UNDER OECD AUSPICES (LISBON 824),

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ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE OTHERS HAS BEEN SUCH A PROMINENT POLITICAL

FIGURE. MENDES-FRANCE'S CREDENTIALS AS A POLITICIAN AND A
SOCIALIST ASSURE THAT ANY VIEWS HE MAY OFFER ON THE PORTUGUESE
ECONOMY WILL RECEIVE A SYMPATHETIC HEARING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, VISITS, MEETINGS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON01059
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750068-0271
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750211/aaaaajve.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MENDES-FRANCE VISITS PORTUGAL
TAGS: EGEN, ECON, PO, FR, (MENDES-FRANCE, PIERRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006